

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
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### **Government Reform to Mark Up Reauthorization of National Drug Control Policy, Federal Employee Legislation**

**What:** Government Reform Committee Business Meeting

**When:** THURSDAY, June 16, 2005, 10:00 A.M.

**Where:** ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

**Background:** The Government Reform Committee will hold a business meeting to mark up the following legislation:

- **H.R. 2829**, to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act;
- **H.R. 994**, regarding pretax payment of health insurance premiums by federal civilian and military retirees;
- **H.R. 1283**, to provide transit pass benefits for National Capital Region Federal employees;
- **H.R. 1317**, Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act;
- **H.R. 1765**, Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act of 2005;
- **HR 2385**, to reauthorize the Census Bureau to conduct quarterly financial report
- Committee Report on National Drug Control Strategy;
- **H. Con. Res. 71**, expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month;
- **H. Con. Res. 160**, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future;
- **H.R. 2113**, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 McDonough Street in Joliet, Illinois, as the "John F. Whiteside Joliet Post Office Building";
- **H.R. 2183**, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office";
- **H.R. 2346**, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 NW Railroad Avenue in Hammond, Louisiana, as the "John J. Hainkel Post Office Building";
- **H.R. 2490**, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office"; and
- **H.R. 2630**, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1927 Sangamon Avenue in Springfield, Illinois, as the "J.M. Dietrich Northeast Annex".

### **H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act**

H.R. 2829, introduced by Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN) and Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) on June 9, 2005, would reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (which expired in FY2003) through FY2010. The legislation would reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy as well as most of the programs administered by ONDCP, including the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center, and the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. The House passed legislation to reauthorize ONDCP and its programs during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (H.R. 2086, passed on September 30, 2003), but the Senate did not act on similar legislation.

On May 24, 2005, the Committee approved H.R. 2565, legislation to establish minimum drug testing standards for major professional sports leagues (known as the “Clean Sports Act of 2005”). As explained at the May 24<sup>th</sup> business meeting, the primary focus of H.R. 2565 was to consider minimum drug testing standards, and that the Committee would reconsider these drug testing standards as part of a broader drug control strategy once negotiations were completed on the provisions reauthorizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act. **An amendment is expected at markup that would add the Clean Sports Act of 2005 to H.R. 2829.**

### **H.R. 994, pretax payment of health insurance premiums by federal civilian and military retirees**

H.R. 994 was introduced by Chairman Davis on March 1, 2005, and approved by the Federal Workforce Subcommittee on May 17. The legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code to permit Federal civilian and military retirees to pay Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and TRICARE supplemental premiums on a pretax basis, and it would provide for a tax deduction (available to itemizers and nonitemizers) for TRICARE supplemental premiums or enrollment fees.

### **H.R. 1283, transit pass benefits for National Capital Region Federal employees**

H.R. 1283 was introduced by Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) on March 14, 2005, and approved by the Federal Workforce Subcommittee on May 17. The legislation would require each Federal agency in the National Capital Region to implement a program under which all qualified Federal employees serving in or under such agency shall be offered transit pass transportation fringe benefits as required under Executive Order 13150. The legislation would also authorize the use of a passenger carrier to transport a Federal officer or employee between his or her place of employment and a mass transit facility.

### **H.R. 1317, Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act**

H.R. 1317, introduced by Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA) on March 15, 2005, would amend title 5 to make clear that a protected disclosure by a Federal employee includes any lawful disclosure an employee or applicant reasonably believes is credible evidence of waste, abuse, or gross mismanagement, without undue limitations on how the disclosure was made. The legislation would provide that a whistleblower could rebut the presumption that a public officer performed their duties in accordance with the law by providing substantial evidence to the contrary. The legislation would also require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on security clearance revocations taking effect after 1996 with respect to personnel that filed claims in connection with such security clearance revocations.

### **H.R. 1765, Generating Opportunity by Forging Educational Debt for Service Act of 2005**

H.R. 1765 was introduced by Chairman Davis on April 21, 2005, and approved by the Federal Workforce Subcommittee on May 17. The legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from the gross income of Federal employees student loan repayments by the Federal Government on behalf of such employees and it would exempt such repayments from social security taxes. Additionally, H.R. 1765 would require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to include in the annual report to Congress on student loan repayment benefits information identifying Federal agencies that have not provided such benefits.

### **HR 2385, reauthorize the Census Bureau to conduct quarterly financial report**

H.R. 2385 was introduced by Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH) on May 17, 2005, and approved by the Federalism and the Census Subcommittee on Tuesday, June 14. The legislation would make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial reporting program. A manager's amendment is expected which would strike the permanent authorizing language and add in its place a ten year authorization.

### **Committee Report on National Drug Control Strategy**

The Committee Report on National Drug Control Strategy is intended to help Congress and the American public gain a better understanding of the federal government's drug control policies, as set forth in the annual National Drug Control Strategy Report and the National Drug Control Program Budget. These documents, both issued by ONDCP in February 2005, describe the strategy chosen by the President to reduce drug abuse, and the resources requested to carry out that strategy. The report is a direct result of several hearings held this year by the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources.

### **Additional Legislation Under Consideration**

Finally, the Committee will consider the following resolutions and post office namings:

- H. Con. Res. 71, expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month (introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee);
- H. Con. Res. 160, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future (introduced by Rep. Danny Davis);
- H.R. 2113, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 McDonough Street in Joliet, Illinois, as the "John F. Whiteside Joliet Post Office Building" (introduced by Rep. Jerry Weller);
- H.R. 2183, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office" (introduced by Rep. Vito Fossella);
- H.R. 2346, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 NW Railroad Avenue in Hammond, Louisiana, as the "John J. Hainkel Post Office Building" (introduced by Rep. Bobby Jindal);
- H.R. 2490, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office" (introduced by Rep. Charlie Dent); and

- H.R. 2630, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1927 Sangamon Avenue in Springfield, Illinois, as the “J.M. Dietrich Northeast Annex” (introduced by Rep. Ray LaHood).

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